

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

62-27?

From: Nico Houghton
To: Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Tue. Mar 25, 2003 4:31 AM
Subject: Keep media free and competitive

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MAR 27 2003

Dear Commissioner:

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

One of the basic elements which help to keep the American media at least partially free and independent is the set of FCC regulations restricting consolidation and monopolies.

In the 2002 Biennial Review, the FCC appears to be planning to roll back many of these protective regulations: the Newspaper/Broadcast Cross-Ownership Rule, the National Broadcast Ownership Cap, the Local Radio Ownership Rule, the Duopoly Rule and the Dual Network Rule.

Relaxation or abandonment of the preceding rules will result in the purchase of local and independent newspapers and radio and television stations by large media giants. The cost to the American People and Democracy will be far too high if local news, reportorial freedom and access to a true variety of legitimate views are further compromised.

Commissioner, I urge you to make sure the FCC does not relax or drop these vital regulatory rules.

Sincerely,

Nico Houghton

cc: [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

02-277

From: Penny LaDeur
To: Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Tue, Mar 25 2003 4 31 AM
Subject: FCC protect media independence

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Dear Commissioner:

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

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Commissioner, I urge you to make sure the FCC does not relax or drop these vital regulatory rules.

Sincerely,

Penny LaDeur
298 Turtle Rock DR.
Floyd, VA 24091

02-277-0000
MAR 27 2003
FCC

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

02-227

From: MojoinColorado@netscape.net
To: Kathleen Abernathy
Date: Mon, Mar 24, 2003 11:14 AM
Subject: <No Subject>

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MAR 27 2003

Dear Madam

Federal Communications Commission
 Office of the Secretary

We are deeply concerned by the consolidation of media companies (radio, tv. and newspaper) and the low standard of public service currently performed by private companies (whether publicly traded or not) using the airwaves owned by the American people.

We live in the Denver Colorado area and have observed the degradation of service since the 'radio market share rules' were relaxed a few years ago. Instead of a variety of radio stations that offered true choices and distinction in both the quality of entertainment and news (in content, in editorial style & in viewpoint), we are now relegated to mediocrity in both general categories.

Instead of unique music (not always good -- but that's what choice gives you) and a choice of play list stations, now all I have are play list stations that are 2 songs an hour different from each other (sometimes they are so repetitive that they even repeat the morning show in the late afternoon/early evening, and many do on Saturday's).

As for the news, I can follow the VERY SAME newscaster and the VERY SAME traffic observer from one station to the other (sometimes it's a goal just to see if I can). That removes objectivity, independence, and even actual news reporters out there gathering data.

Not to mention any corporate influences to support causes and or candidates for public office via control of the newsroom (of 8 outlets at once).

As to the financials of this, with just two or three major companies controlling the vast majority of the market, they can set ad rates. Already Clear Channel appears to set the ad times so that they are suspiciously at or almost at the same time. How do I know? I am scanning channels to avoid them because they control so much of the time and have such large blocks of ads. I can only speculate they also editorialize whom they will let advertise. Besides, doesn't this smack of near monopolization? I like to think of it as 'managed capitalism'.

In the Denver area (and as a result, most of the state of Colorado) we have the result of the consolidation of two large metropolitan/state wide newspapers into one holding company (a 'Joint Operating Agreement').

The end result is that ad rates went up many multitudes, as did my subscription rate (from \$7/year/6 days a week to \$52/year). Part of the merger included only printing one paper on Saturday's and Sunday's (**less** service -- more money?!). In addition, ad policies have become political to the point that at least one category is limited beyond the scope of law (firearms ads are now limited to licensed dealers only). This mirrors the editorial page of one of the papers. With only one company, and a soon to be completed move to only one building, what independent, even opposing, editorial content can I continue to expect? Hmm? Is the public being served? Or did two business groups all but officially merge, creating in effect a monopoly?

In short, we would like to see a reversal of some of the changes made in the last few years to make LARGE businessmen happy for their bottom line, a return to public broadcasters having some commitment and responsibility to the local public whose airwaves they use. And yes, this means we support the regulations we have on cross ownership, even a return to tighter regulation.

Thank you,

Sharon Jenkins
 02-227

Michael & Catherine Z. Cunningham
POB 42
Franktown, CO 80116-0042

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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

02-277

From: DJrejoyce@aol.com
To: Cornmissioner Adelstein, Michael Copps, Kathleen Abernathy, Mike Powell
Date: Sun. Mar 23. 2003 2:04 AM
Subject: stop media consolidation11

Dear Commissioner

Regarding the upcoming FCC vote. further consolidation of the media must be halted and in fact reversed. TV and radio news in the hands of a handful of profit-driven corporations has undermined our democracy more than any other modern force except the high cost of broadcast commercials during elections. The media companies have failed in their public trust to provide crucial unbiased information to the public about most public issues, most notably the drive to war in Iraq. As an American concerned about our democracy, I call on you to break up the media conglomerates, to open the spectrum to a wide diversity of organizations and independent journalists, and to reinstate the Fairness Doctrine.

Thank you,
David Joyce
Reseda. Ca

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MAR 27 2003

**Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary**

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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

From: jayrice1@earthlink.net
To: Kathleen Abernathy
Date: Sun Mar 23 2003 4 35 PM
Subject: Protect Children's Television'

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

FCC Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy

Dear FCC Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy,

The FCC must consider the unique needs of children in its upcoming rulemaking on broadcast ownership rules.

Children consume almost five and a half hours of media per day. Research has shown that media, particularly television, play a unique and powerful role in children's development.

The FCC should consider how further relaxation of media ownership rules would impact children's programming. Deregulation may reduce competition, increase commercialism and result in less original programming for children.

Before making any regulatory changes to existing media ownership rules, the FCC must consider how children will be affected.

Sincerely,

Jay Rice
72 Holstrom Circle
Novato, California 94947-2075

cc:
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Lynn Woolsey